



*O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,*

*O come ye
O come ye to Bethlehem,*

Come and behold Him,

Born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, Let us adore Him,

Christ, the Lord.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE - QUESTIONS TO PONDER

~Do you look upon God as your rock or do you seek refuge elsewhere?

~ Mary surrenders her life to God when she says, "I am the handmaid of the Lord." Are you willing to surrender any part of your life to God?

~What virtues might Mary have relied upon in answering God's call?

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful



Christmas Mass Schedule

A Holy Day of Obligation

St. Polycarp:

Sunday, December 24th, at 4 pm

(Children's Nativity Pageant to Follow)

Sunday, December 24th, at 9 pm

Monday, December 25th, at 10 am

St. Dennis:

Sunday, December 24th, at 4 pm

Sunday, December 24th at 6 pm -
Hispanic

Monday, December 25th, at 10 am

You are cordially invited to join us at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass to watch our 1st graders bring to life our Nativity Pageant.



The reenactment of the First Christmas will take place immediately following the Mass. This performance will surely put you into the Christmas Spirit.

From all of us involved in the PSR Ministry, we wish you a safe, peaceful, and joy filled Christmas. Thank you for all your support and prayers throughout the year. You are truly appreciated! May God bless.

Erica Taylor, CRE

LET US PRAY

Intentions

Saturday, December 23	St. John of Kanty
4:00 pm Robert H. Smith	- Mike & Diane Dellinger
Sylvia Vessels DuRoss	- Jim DuRoss
Judy Reynolds	- Mary Grace & George Hutchinson
Sunday, December 24	4th Sunday of Advent
4 pm Christmas Novena	
9 pm Christmas Novena	
Monday, December 25	The Nativity of the Lord
10 am Christmas Novena	
Tuesday, December 26	St. Stephen
8:30 am Christmas Novena	
Wednesday, December 27	St John, Apostle & Evangelist
8:30 am Christmas Novena	
Thursday, December 28	The Holy Innocents
NO MASS	
Friday, December 29	St. Thomas Becket
NO MASS	
Saturday, December 30	
4:00 pm Christmas Novena	
Sunday, December 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
10:30 am Christmas Novena	

Week of December 24th:

Our Sanctuary Lamp in Church burns in memory of Luigina and Preston Pendarvis at the request of the family.

Our Sanctuary Lamp in Saint Ann's Chapel burns in prayer for all who decorated our Church for Christmas.

Please Pray for Our Sick & Those in Need of Our Prayers

To have someone's name added to the Bulletin for prayers, please email submission@saintpolycarp.org or call the office and leave a message. Names will remain on the prayer list for two months (eight weeks) unless other arrangements have been requested.

Wally Wargo, Diane Bullins, Bridget O'Connell, Ava P, Robin Husman, Milli Burris Alvarez, Jack Barnas, Margaret Sevellina, Lyllie Deter, Leon Walczak, John Ruane, Dottie Patterson, Laverne Dykes, Janet Alexander, Bob Gallihar, Kay Gallihar, Grace Wagner, Patricia Capobianco, Barbara Hynson, Charlotte Konesky, Tina Kelley, Cathy Connell, Joe Donofrio, April Doyle, Beth Kelly, Andrea Laws, Kaysie Borgman, Angie & Al Grasso, Erica White, James Dean, Violet Farkas, Greg Kujala, Teresa Tier, Holly Powell, Rob Tuxward, Billy Killen, Andrew Cella, Jr., Lily Griffiths, Rob Miller, Patty Moon, Deirdre Moor, Linda Blow, Mariann Pierson, Ruth Staub, Jaci Stokes, and residents of Pinnacle and DHCI.

We Pray for our Deceased

Connor Hannah

Alesio Grasso

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Prayer Chain: To request prayers or to be part of our Prayer Chain, contact Laverne at laverne427@icloud.com or call (302) 653 - 8064.

Rosary by Telephone: Tuesdays at 11 am. The dial in number is: 1-701-802-5254/PIN: 1747300#.

Eucharistic Adoration - Tuesdays, 9 am - 8 pm - Chapel, At the end of the 4 pm Vigil Mass, before the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Flame of Love Rosary: Thursdays at 6:30 pm - Chapel

Divine Mercy: Fridays at 3 pm - Chapel.

LITURGY

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Christmas is a time to reflect on the blessings of family and shared togetherness. We exchange gifts as an act of love and appreciation, but there is no greater gift we can give than the gift of the Holy Mass. Although a loved one may no longer be present to share this time with us, let us remember that, now more than ever, they rely upon us for their spiritual well-being. Take a moment to show your affection by praying on their behalf. Living or deceased, the best gift you can give is the gift of the Mass. Please use the Christmas Novena envelope to show your loved ones they have not been forgotten.



Just like parents in every time and every location prepare for the birth of their child, Mary and Joseph did their best to welcome the Holy Child in the humble surroundings where our Lord entered the world. Wouldn't this be the ideal time to proclaim the birth of our Savior by decorating our Church with all the splendor befitting the birth of the King of Kings? Please consider using the Christmas flower envelope to help us proclaim our joy as we rejoice in the birth of our Lord.

BE BRAVE, ANSWER THE CALL



On January 29, 1973, the instruction Immensae Caritatis was issued by Pope Paul VI. With this instruction, the diocesan bishop was given permission to designate lay men and women to distribute the Eucharist as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Are you a Catholic living in harmony with the teachings of the Church? Are you at least 18 years old? Have you received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation? Are you sufficiently mature to perform the duties of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass or to the sick and homebound?

These are the qualifications needed to be considered for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. If this is a ministry you feel God calling you to, please contact Cindy Kennedy at Kennedy-078@msn.com.

Formation and training will begin early January.

THE VOCATION CHALICE

The Vocation Chalice encourages individuals and/or families to pray regularly for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. The Chalice is taken home with a promise to pray for vocations during that week. Call or text Alice Gaston at (302) 670 - 7924 if you can take home the vocation chalice for a week of prayer.

Family/Person	Weekend	Mass time
Stephanie Roch	December 24	4:00 pm



Year after year we look upon the manger scene. It touches the heart of the young and not so young and enkindles in all of us the spirit of awe.

As we move from Advent and embrace the Christmas Season, on behalf of Fr. Jim, Deacon Frank, and all the parish staff we wish you Merry Christmas. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with God's blessings.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Visit <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading> or use this QR code.

NOTICE ANYTHING NEW?



We hope that you have noticed the new candle stands in the back of the Church. They are electric candles, which are safer and do not create soot. The \$3 aqua votive candles are now available to be lit for your intentions. After you put your money in the slot, you just need to press the button in front of that candle. You must press and hold the button until it lights.

The white candles are memorial candles. These candles are available to be lit in memory of someone. The introductory fee of \$120 includes the candle being lit for a full year with a memorial name plate placed in front of that candle with the person's name on it. This introductory fee is good until Ash Wednesday when the fee will be \$150. If you are interested in having one of these candles lit, please contact Kathy at the office. We hope you enjoy them.

RESTROOMS

The bathrooms in the hallway outside of the Church are now SINGLE OCCUPANCY. (Remember to lock the door.) The partitions have been removed. Grab bars and raised toilets have been installed.

December 30/31 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – Masses at 4 pm on Saturday, December 30th and 10:30 am on Sunday, December 31st.

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



New Year's Day
Sunday, December 31st, at 4 pm
Monday, January 1st, at 10 am
The Blessing of Calendars will take place at the 4 pm Mass, on December 31st and at the 10:30 am Mass on January 1st.

DEACON CHARLIE MEMORIAL ADVENT POSTER CONTEST

On December 1st, the family of Deacon Charlie Robinson judged 66 entries in the Deacon Charlie Memorial Advent Poster Contest. What a difficult job that was!! Below are the First-Place winners.

Sunday Morning, Grades PK/K – 4
1st PLACE - SHANE STILWELL



Tuesday Evening, Grade 5 - 8
1st PLACE – KHLOE MICKULUS



Nativity Crèches from the Catholic Churches of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Last Christmas, the diocese invited each of its 56 parishes and 18 mission churches to submit a photograph of their crèche to be included in the video that celebrates the 800th anniversary of the very first Nativity scene. In 1223, wanting to emphasize the humble circumstances of Jesus's birth and to inspire the local people to more deeply appreciate the Christmas story. St. Francis of Assisi set up a live Nativity scene in a cave in the quaint Italian village of Greccio. The scene, also called a crèche, included live animals and a hay-filled manger to recreate the birth of Jesus as described in the Gospels. Today, the tradition of the Christmas nativity scene is practiced in churches, homes and even in public squares around the world.

On Sunday, December 17, 2023, a new video debuted on the Diocese of Wilmington's YouTube channel. This video, produced by the Diocese of Wilmington, presents a montage of photographs of Nativity crèches from the Catholic churches of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. The video includes beautiful instrumental Christmas hymns as a background. Families are invited to watch the 12 ½ minute video together, discuss which scene they like best and why, maybe try to be the first to identify the scene from our parish. Visit www.YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm to view the video. (Also, see the center page in the Dialog!)

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE

CELEBRATE!
Saturday January 13, 2024
5:30-9:00 P.M.
Brother Vincent K of C & Columbiettes
Rock 'N Roll Tribute
Dinner - Show & More!!!!
 At St. Polycarp Church Hall
Featuring:
Mr. Charisma
 Take a break from your hectic schedule and ...
JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED NIGHT WITH DINNER ... SHOW ... DANCING
Tickets: \$45.00
Contact:
 Anna Skinner (ANNA.SKINZ@gmail.com) (302-883-5647)
Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus #7517
 Mail to: Knights of Columbus #7517
 55 Ransom Lane, Smyrna, Delaware

SOCIAL CONCERNS



Once again, our Parish generously donated gifts for our Giving Tree. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society, with help from the Knights of Columbus, collected hams, turkeys and gift cards for those in need. Our parishioners continue to be generous in donating to the local food bank year round.

FINANCE COUNCIL

FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATE

The Finance Council meets monthly to review the financial operations of our parish and related matters. Here are some items from our November meeting:

- Discussed 2023 Annual Appeal figures.
- Discussed strategy for staggering the parish's investments.
- Discussed Town of Smyrna's proposal for use of parish property for a water well.

2023 FAITH & CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL



Thank you to all those parishioners who contributed to the 2023 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Our parish has achieved our goal in pledges and money collected for the appeal! Your generosity in supporting this year's appeal once again demonstrates that you understand the mission of our Church. Now that we have reached our goal in money collected, we will receive back half of the money collected above the goal for projects around our campus. We invite those who haven't yet had the opportunity to give to the Appeal to join us in spreading the spirit of gratitude. Envelopes can be found at the doors of the Church You can also support the appeal online at www.cdow.org

VISIT BULLETIN OVERFLOW

for details on events & for things that we just don't have room for in our bulletin.

<https://saintpolycarp.org/overflow/>

COLLECTIONS

Please consider signing up for eGiving. Visit faith.direct/DE831 or you can use Text-to-Give. Text "Enroll" to (302) 202-2251 or you can use this QR code for easy giving. *Thank you for your generosity.*



COLLECTIONS – DECEMBER 10

Offertory	Children's Offertory	Total Offertory	
\$3,633	\$85.60	\$3,718.60	
Christmas Flowers	Christmas Novena	Christmas Offering	Holy Days
\$120	\$308	\$485	\$98
Immaculate Conception		Religious Retirement	
\$962		\$205	

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

For the most up-to-date information
Visit <https://saintpolycarp.org/calendar/>
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am to 3 pm

<p>Saturday, December 23 12 pm Environment Committee (Church) 2:30 pm Confession 4 pm MASS</p> <p>Sunday, December 24 NO PSR - No Class, NO PSR Online 10:30 am MASS – 4th Sunday of Advent 11:30 am Reconciliation (Reconciliation Room) 4 pm Christmas Vigil Mass Following Mass - Christmas Nativity Pageant (Church) 9 pm Christmas Vigil Mass</p> <p>Monday, December 25 OFFICE CLOSED 10 am MASS</p> <p>Tuesday, December 26 8:30 am MASS 9 am - 8 pm Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel) 11 am Columbiettes Rosary (Telephone) 6:30 pm Social Concerns (Library) NO PSR - No Class, NO PSR Online</p> <p>Wednesday, December 27 8:30 am MASS 6:30 Squires (Library)</p> <p>Thursday, December 28 10 am Seasons of Hope (Library) 6 pm Girl Scouts Meeting (Hall) 6:30 pm Flame of Love Rosary (Chapel)</p> <p>Friday, December 29 3 pm Divine Mercy (Chapel)</p> <p>Saturday, December 30 12 pm Environment Committee (Church) 2:30 pm Confession 4 pm MASS</p>	<p style="color: #4b0082; font-weight: bold;">THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</p> <p style="color: #4b0082; font-weight: bold;">HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</p> <p style="color: #4b0082; font-weight: bold; font-style: italic;">Merry Christmas</p>
---	---

Serving the community since 1876.
 Planning in advance of need makes good sense.

Cathedral Cemetery
 2400 Lancaster Avenue
 302-656-3323

All Saints Cemetery
 6001 Kirkwood Highway
 302-737-2524

Catholic Cemeteries Diocese of Wilmington
In Sure and Certain Hope

Eastern Shore Seafood Inc.

Crabs, Clams, Shrimp & Oysters
 We've got it all here!
 (302) 653-5294
 2626 S. Dupont Blvd., Smyrna
 www.delawarebaycrabs.com

Smyrna DINNER
 great food value service

Breakfast Buffet
 7am-12noon
 Sun 7am-1pm
 99 S.Cory Lane Smyrna
302-653-9980
Parishioner

Fletcher Smyrna, DE 19977

Plumbing Heating Air Conditioning

Telephone: 653-6277
 Telephone: 653-0503

CREMATION SERVICE OF DELAWARE
 519 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE 19809
 (302) 762-0334
 Simple ~ Economical ~ Dignified

Bryan REALTY GROUP

J. MARTIN ORLANDO
 MBA - Realtor - Parishioner
 O: 302-734-4414
 C: 302-222-6352
 martinorlando@comcast.net
 Offices in Dover & Rehoboth Beach, DE

FINDING GUIDANCE DURING A DIFFICULT TIME IS COMFORTING.

THAT'S WHY PEOPLE TURN TO US.

Burial & Cremation Services • Pre-Arrangements
 Cemetery Markers • Out-of-Town Arrangements
Matthew R. Bryson - Funeral Director
Carol L. Bryson - Parishioner

653-2900 123 W. COMMERCE ST. SMYRNA, DE

MATTHEWS-BRYSON
 FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES
 www.matthewsbryson.com


Finding FABER FREE
 DOWNLOAD!

Our advertisers make us look good!

thank you

Thank an advertiser!
 Let them know you saw their ad in the weekly church bulletin!

catholicmatch Delaware



CatholicMatch.com/ dateDE

American Red Cross

Make a Difference in Your Community

VOLUNTEER
 with the American Red Cross

Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer

Mallory's Army Foundation

United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
 Don't Just Teach Kindness...
BE KINDNESS!

www.MallorysArmy.com
 (973) 440-8657
 info@mallorysarmy.org

It's easy to join our mailing list!
 Just send your email address by text message:
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.

Blank space for advertisement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

S A M I

STOP ASK MATCH INFORM

ASK #WHATSMYNAME BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE

OUR SPONSORS & OUR COMMUNITY

Sponsors can offer promotions, discounts and/or up-to-date contact information to the ENTIRE community

Finding FABER

ANYONE in the community, not only Parishioners, can access realtime offers from their favorite sponsors to save, share & support

Local, trusted, proven, effective, supportive, referrals, relationships, affordable, repetitious, versatile, lasting.

This describes the power of... **Church Bulletin Advertising**

Placing an ad in the parish bulletin supports the parish while building your business - THAT'S A WIN WIN!
 Call 1.800.333.3166!

BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY
 - Shop Local -
 - Shop Small -

PLEASE PATRONIZE THE ADVERTISERS WHO MAKE THIS BULLETIN POSSIBLE!